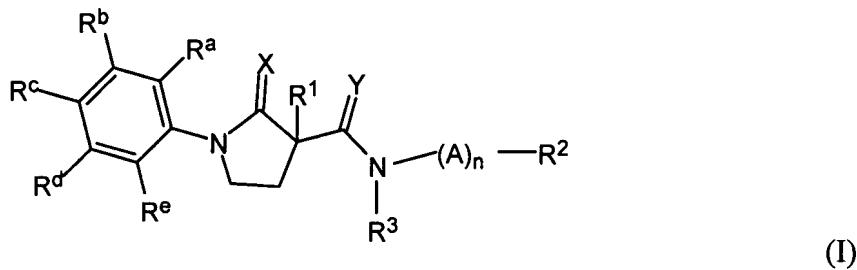


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound which is a 1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide of the formula I



where the variables R¹, R², R³, X, Y, A, n, R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are as defined below:

R¹ is hydrogen, OH, Cl, Br, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C(0)R⁴ or OC(0)R⁴;

R² is C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₈-alkynyl, C₅-C₈-cycloalkenyl or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, wherein C₁-C₁₀-alkyl and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one or two radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹, and wherein said phenyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, OH,

CN, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹
R² and R³ independently of one another are is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl, C₇-C₁₀-polycycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₁₀-alkynyl, C₅-C₁₀-cycloalkenyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl or 3- to 7-membered heterocycl, where the 9 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO₂, COOH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷, C(0)NR⁸S02R¹³, C(0)NR⁸R⁹ and 3- to 7-membered heterocycl, wherein each heterocycl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, a group NR¹⁰ and a group SO₂, and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; and/or may contain a ring-fused phenyl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted; or

R² and R³, together with the group N-(A)n to which they are attached, form a saturated 3- to 7-membered heterocycle which, in addition to the nitrogen atom, may contain 1, 2 or a further 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR¹⁰ and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members;

R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e independently of one another are hydrogen, OH, CN, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₂-C₆-haloalkenyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio,

C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, C(0)R⁴, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷, C(0)NR⁸R⁹, S(0)₂NR⁸R⁹, S(0)R¹¹, S(0)₂R¹¹ or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl; or two adjacent radicals R^a to R^e, together with the atoms to which they are attached, form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which may contain one or two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and a group NR¹⁰ as ring-forming atom and/or may carry one, two, three or four radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen and C₁-C₄-alkyl;

X, Y independently of one another are oxygen or sulfur;

n is 0 or 1;

A is 0, S(0)_k or NR¹², where k is 0, 1 or 2;

R⁴, R⁸, R⁹ independently of one another are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R⁵, R¹¹ are C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R⁶, R⁷ independently of one another are hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C(0)R⁴, COOR⁵ or S(0)₂R¹¹;

R¹⁰, R¹² independently of one another are hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl or C₃-C₆-alkynyl; and

R¹³ is phenyl which is unsubstituted or carries 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, cyano, OH, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹; or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 in which R² and wherein R³ independently of one another are is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₈-alkynyl, C₅-C₁₀-cycloalkenyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl or 3-to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 8 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO₂, COOH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷, and C(0)NR⁸R⁹, wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR¹⁰ and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; or

R² and R³, together with the group N-(A)n to which they are attached, form a saturated 3-to 7-membered heterocycle which, in addition to the nitrogen atom, may contain 1, 2 or a further 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR¹⁰ and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R¹ is hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R³ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R² is C₁-C₆-

alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₅-C₆-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein n = 0.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radicals R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, CN, C₁-C₄-alkyl, OCH₃, CF₃, CHF₂, OCF₃ and OCHF₂.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein not more than 3 of the radicals R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are different from hydrogen.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein 2 or 3 of the radicals R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d and R^e are different from hydrogen.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein the radicals R^a and R^e represent hydrogen.

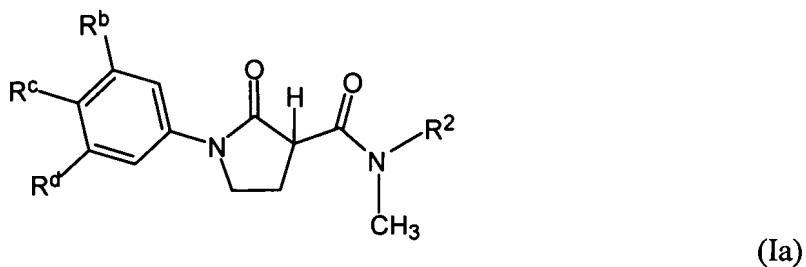
12. (Previously Presented) A composition, comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least compound as claimed in claim 1, and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier, and, if desired, at least one surfactant.
13. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1 to act on plants, their habitat or on a seed.
14. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, comprising applying to plants, their habitat or to their seed a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said compound is applied at an application rate of from 0.001 to 3.0 kg/ha.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the application rate of said compound is 0.01 to 1.0 kg/ha.
17. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein n is 1 and A, is oxygen, a group N-R¹², where R¹² = hydrogen or alkyl, or a group SO₂.
18. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^a, R^b, R^c, R_d, R^e are

independently hydrogen, halogen, CN, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R¹ is hydrogen, OH, C₁ Cl, Br, C₁-C₆-alkyl or OC(O)R⁴.

20. Cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ia)



wherein

R^b, R^c, R^d independently of one another are hydrogen, OH, CN, NO₂, halogen, C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₂-C₆-haloalkenyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, C(0)R⁴, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷, C(0)NR⁸R⁹, S(0)₂NR⁸R⁹, S(0)R¹¹, S(0)₂R¹¹ or C₁-C₄-alkoxy- C₁-C₆-alkyl; and

R² is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl, C₇-C₁₀-polycycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₁₀-alkynyl, C₅-C₁₀-cycloalkenyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl or 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 9 last mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or contain 1, 2 or 3 radicals

~~selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO₂, COOH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷, C(O)NR⁸SO₂R¹³, C(O)NR⁸R⁹ and 3 to 7 membered heterocyclyl, wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, a group NR¹⁰ and a group SO₂, and if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; and/or may contain a ring fused phenyl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted~~

R² is C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₈-alkynyl, C₅-C₈-cycloalkenyl or C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, wherein C₁-C₁₀-alkyl and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one or two radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(O)NR⁸R⁹, and wherein said phenyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, OH, CN, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(O)NR⁸R⁹.

22. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R² is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₅-C₆-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one

radical selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹;

wherein R³ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and

wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

23. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R² is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₅-C₆-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹;

wherein R³ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

wherein X and Y represent oxygen; and

wherein n is 0.

24. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R¹ is hydrogen;

wherein R² is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₅-C₆-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-

alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹;

wherein R³ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and

wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

25. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1,

wherein R¹ is hydrogen;

wherein R² is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₅-C₆-cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷ and C(0)NR⁸R⁹;

wherein R³ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

wherein X and Y represent oxygen; and

wherein n is 0.